

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a true bipartisan health care bill would have included real lawsuit abuse reform that provides savings for the American people. The administration refuses to consider lawsuit abuse reform because they want to protect their political piggy bank, which is filled by trial lawyers. The legal industry contributed \$43 million to President Obama's 2008 campaign. More than 78 percent of the money given to Congress by lawyers, mostly from trial lawyers, went to Democrats, almost \$100 million.

By bankrolling Democratic politicians, trial lawyers have succeeded in preventing any lawsuit abuse reforms from becoming part of the health care legislation, despite the overwhelming support for lawsuit reform by a great majority of the American people.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the whole Nation desperately needs health care reform, but no group of Americans needs it more than women, women who face discrimination and insult at the hands of the broken status quo.

We all know that the current system allows insurance companies to deny coverage based on preexisting conditions, but I wonder how many of my colleagues realize that, essentially, being a woman is a preexisting condition. Pregnancy, for example, or C-sections can be deemed preexisting conditions. And most unbelievably of all, insurance companies can legally turn their backs on women who have suffered injuries due to domestic violence, because that, too, can be defined as a preexisting condition.

We should all be ashamed of a system that puts insurance company profits ahead of healthy American women. It's time for women to no longer be a preexisting condition. Pass the health care bill.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI recently said that we have to pass the health care bill so we can find out what's in it. I can tell you what's in it. It does nothing for cost.

I'm not a career politician. I have been in business for myself for 30 years and created thousands of jobs. Small businesses are dying. We need to bring down the cost of health care. Today it is \$12,000 for a family of four. A recent study said it's going to take it to \$28,000 for a family of four in the next 10 years. We are doing nothing about lowering the cost of health care. It's

killing small businesses. It's killing jobs.

What also is in the bill, \$740 billion in tax increases. Small businesses are going to be the ones that feel it the most. Most of them have pass-through income. It will be another big, job-killing opportunity for small businesses.

The third thing is that it really hurts seniors; \$500 billion worth of real cuts, not just waste, fraud, and abuse. I have looked at the cuts. They are very serious cuts.

And now we have learned that the Speaker wants to pass the bill without actually taking a vote that will cover at-risk Members. No wonder the American people are fed up with Washington.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. My colleague from Florida, my good friend, is incorrect: health care reform is great news for small business owners and middle class families. For folks that already have insurance, there are important consumer protections. If you are paying your premiums and copays, these insurance companies will no longer be able to cancel you if you get sick. If you switch jobs, you will no longer be barred if you have a preexisting condition like asthma or diabetes. For parents, now your children will be able to stay on your policy until age 26, and we will ensure that the bulk of your payments and copays will actually go to health care rather than CEO salaries and bonuses.

My colleague is incorrect. Medicare will get stronger. Our parents, our grandparents, and our neighbors will see substantial improvements in their benefits. Not one benefit will be cut. Instead, we are going to pay Medicare doctors more to stay in Medicare. We are going to close the doughnut hole and make prescription drugs more affordable, and we are going to emphasize preventive care so they don't skip their checkups.

And for small businesses owners and families who don't have insurance, they will have a new shopping exchange and new tax credits to ensure you can afford your health care.

#### FALLEN MARINE LANCE CORPORAL ERIC LEVI WARD

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled and honored today to recognize the sacrifice of a fallen marine from my district, Lance Corporal Eric Levi Ward from Redmond, Washington, who was killed in Afghanistan on February 21.

Soon he will be buried at Arlington, the final resting place for those who so

honorably sacrificed their lives for this country. When I talked to Eric's mom the other day, she said she understood her son's dedication to his country. She was a proud marine mom despite the sacrifice her family has made and the sense of loss and grief that they now bear.

It's important that we remember today that our country, the government, the people, our very way of life would not exist without those who sacrifice so willingly, who put on the uniform and sacrifice their lives, marines like Eric Ward, who gave their lives to honor our country to have freedom.

To Eric's family and to his friends, know that we will never forget Eric's sacrifice nor all those who have gone before him. His memory will live on, and we will continue to remember Eric's service to this country.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, thousands of my constituents have shared their health care stories with me about America's broken health care system, like Christopher from St. Louis. He said, I stayed in a job that I hated for 5 years just for the insurance. Or like Stacy, also from St. Louis. Her grandmother died without preventive coverage 2 years ago, she said, leaving her grandfather broke due to medical debt and her family wondering why her medical problems couldn't have been detected sooner. She wrote, Please vote for health care reform for my grandmother.

Well, Stacy and the thousands of others that I represent, I want to tell you I will. The American people have had it with the partisan bickering here, and so have I. The folks who want to play partisan political games with your health care need to get out of the way. The insurance companies have made record profits during this economic recession and are sticking us with higher premiums all across the country.

Enough with the obstruction and the delay. This bill has already passed the House. A bill has already passed the Senate with a supermajority. It's time for every Member of this Congress to stand up and be counted, to have a final up-or-down vote. It's time to stand up for millions of Americans. I know where I stand. It's time for an up-or-down vote on health care now.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to address some of the misstatements that have been made. I am also tired of the partisan bickering. I came in thinking that the Democrats who said, We want to work together, were serious.